
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 2848

State of Washington

52nd Legislature

1992 Regular Session

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Prentice, Cooper, Wood, R. Fisher, Paris, Orr, Heavey, R. Johnson, Nelson, Rust, Day, Fraser, Leonard, Basich, Jacobsen and J. Kohl)

Read first time 02/11/92.

1 AN ACT Relating to environmental considerations of transportation
2 planning; and adding a new section to chapter 47.05 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 47.05 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 Recognizing the importance of maintaining the quality of life in
7 Washington state, the citizens of this state demand protection and
8 preservation of our scarce natural resources. Citizens also demand an
9 efficient and effective transportation system. The departments of
10 transportation and ecology have worked jointly to develop a reasonable
11 approach to assessing environmental impacts of significant
12 transportation projects. Nevertheless, many transportation projects
13 are costing more than was budgeted, due to unanticipated and extensive
14 environmental considerations. It is the intent of the legislature to

1 find a process for assessing, budgeting, and accounting for
2 environmental costs related to significant transportation projects. In
3 evaluating the environmental elements of significant transportation
4 projects, the department shall consider a broad array of alternatives
5 including new technologies.

6 Therefore, the department of transportation shall undertake a pilot
7 program in at least one transportation district that will serve as a
8 case study for the entire department. The purpose of the pilot program
9 is to define those discrete environmental elements of all significant
10 transportation projects within the selected pilot transportation
11 district that can be isolated and priced. The department of
12 transportation shall at a minimum include estimates for wetlands, storm
13 water, air, hazardous waste, and fish barriers.

14 It is the intent of the legislature that the environmental cost
15 estimates be developed during a detailed scoping process that will
16 include preliminary engineering and design. The public shall have an
17 opportunity to review all significant transportation projects within
18 the designated pilot district, through the public hearing process
19 during the scoping process. After the detailed scoping process,
20 project-specific recommendations and cost estimates shall be submitted
21 by January 1, 1994, to the office of financial management, the
22 legislative transportation committee, and the transportation commission
23 for review.